

24325

TOP SECRET

1321

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

FAR EAST

1. INDOCHINA: Bao Dai reportedly discouraged and depressed--
 US Consul General Gullion in Saigon, in summarizing his im-
 pression of Bao Dai's present attitude toward the future of
 Vietnam, reports that Bao Dai appeared to be profoundly de-
 pressed and discouraged during a recent, prolonged inter-
 view. Bao Dai (who has now firmly decided to go to France)
 remarked that he would "wait and see" before deciding upon
 the date of his return from France, and Gullion comments
 that Bao obviously conceives of his coming visit as a means
 of wringing further concessions from the French as the price
 for his return. Bao believes that the French military effort
 in Indochina is going badly and feels that the French "are
 welching" on their political promises for granting greater
 autonomy to the new State of Vietnam. In estimating how
 Bao Dai's state of mind may affect the course of events in
 Indochina, Gullion comments that although Bao's present
 attitude may be transitory, the fact remains that Bao is
 seriously considering a "stay away" strike against the French
 and that Bao's present disconsolate attitude is far from that
 of a single-minded leader of an anti-Communist crusade.

(CIA Comment: Bao Dai's imminent departure from
 Indochina, on the eve of the technical conference scheduled
 for 20-25 June between France and the three new Indochinese
 states and just prior to initial delivery of US aid, is primarily
 a bargaining move aimed at extracting a French commitment
 to expand the "limited independence" recently granted Viet-
 nam within the French Union. A prolonged stay in France by
 Bao Dai would seriously hamper French attempts to create a
 non-Communist nationalist movement in Indochina, and Bao's
 flat refusal to return to Vietnam could lead to a collapse of
 the current French political effort in Indochina.)

Document No. 68

NO CHANGE in Class.

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

LDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: LDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 29 MAR 1978 By:

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed